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Item 108

# GARBAGE

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## GAZETTE

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### Weathering a Waste Paper Market Slowdown

As is true of any commodity, the value of waste paper fluctuates with market conditions. We are in the midst of an economic slowdown, and the waste paper market has not gotten away unscathed. According to paper market analysts, decreased consumption of paper goods (due to the recessionary economy) has lead many paper mills to announce downtime and decreased production. However, the market is being affected by other factors as well (things are never simple). The shortage of shipping containers used to export paper has reportedly been exacerbated by the Persian Gulf conflict. This combination of factors has, in some cases, resulted in temporary decreased demand and consequent lower prices for office paper collected for recycling. "Fibre Market News" (Vol. 54, No. 18, 5/3/91, p.1) predicts that the decreased prices will continue until the end of the year.

How best to weather this slump? Since the mills have become increasingly intolerant of contamination and are demanding a cleaner material, take extra care to make sure the paper you collect is free of any contaminants. Mills are rejecting more and more loads that do not meet their increasingly strict specifications. We further suggest, as we always have, that you collect high grade white office paper for recycling. We do not encourage the collection of mixed office paper unless you have a stable long-term market arrangement.

In addition to high grade white paper having more diverse end uses than mixed office paper waste, there is a potential for future increased use of high grade white paper in the production of fine grade writing and printing papers. You can help support this potential by buying paper products which contain post-consumer recycled paper - especially office paper with a post-consumer recycled paper content of at least 10%. If mills producing fine printing and writing paper are convinced that there is a real demand (that it's not a fad) for paper with a post-consumer recycled paper content, then they will make the commitment to increase their deinking capacity. If people continue buying paper made only from virgin wood pulp, the markets for recycled paper will not improve.

As long as we are on the subject of purchasing, make sure the paper you buy is recyclable in your program. If your program recycles high grade white paper, then common sense dictates that purchasing things like glossy and colored paper should be avoided whenever possible. However, something that most people don't consider in their paper purchasing specifications is groundwood. **Try to avoid purchasing office paper with any groundwood content** - it may look white, but it won't be recyclable in your office paper recycling program.

**When all is said and done, it is you and I, the recyclers and the consumers who can make the difference - we can improve the marketability and demand for the paper we collect for recycling.** As suggested above, we can: 1) collect a high quality (no or low contamination) high grade white office paper for recycling and 2) whenever possible, buy only paper with a post-consumer recycled paper content of at least 10%.

It is all of us, residents, businessmen, teachers, government employees, etc. who will make recycling viable and successful and will ensure that it stays that way.

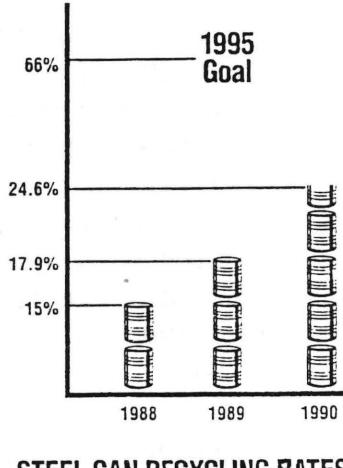
*If you are planning for one year, plant a garden  
If you are planning for ten years, plant a tree  
If you are planning for a century, educate your children*

## **Southwest Region Recycling 3,000 Tons Per Month**

The IPC in Stratford has been operating on an interim basis since July of 1990 and is now processing over 3,000 tons of recyclables per month from 16 towns. The facility accepts commingled bottles and cans, newspaper, and HDPE and PET plastic containers. A total of 3,108 tons of material was processed during the month of April. The "New American Revolution" theme continues to remind people to recycle and the region is initiating a "precycling" campaign as well. The region's education specialist, Millie Horosco, has developed excellent training workshops to teach teachers about recycling.

Fourteen of the 17 southwest towns have submitted municipal plans with requests for state grant money to purchase equipment for their recycling and composting programs. All of these towns have received full or partial approval from SWEROC and DEP to purchase recycling equipment with grant money. The list of items to be purchased by southwestern towns includes: recycling trucks, roll-off containers, waste oil tanks, recycling containers for public areas, tub grinders, and recycling center and composting area site work.

**BRING YOUR USED LEAD-ACID BATTERIES TO A LOCAL BATTERY RETAILER FOR RECYCLING...ANYONE MAY RETURN UP TO 3 BATTERIES THROUGH APRIL, 1992, AT NO CHARGE.**



**STEEL CAN RECYCLING RATES**



**STEEL CAN RECYCLING JUMPS 37% FROM 1989 RATE**

(Source: Steel Can Recycling Institute Press Release, 5/7/91)

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